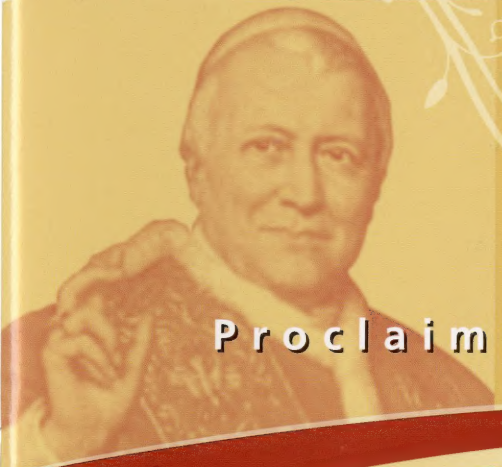

Proclaiming our Past,

Celebrating 150 Years

150

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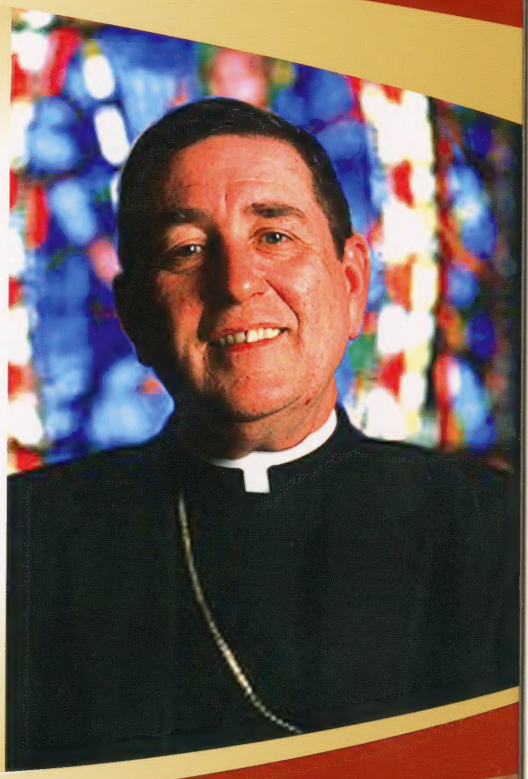
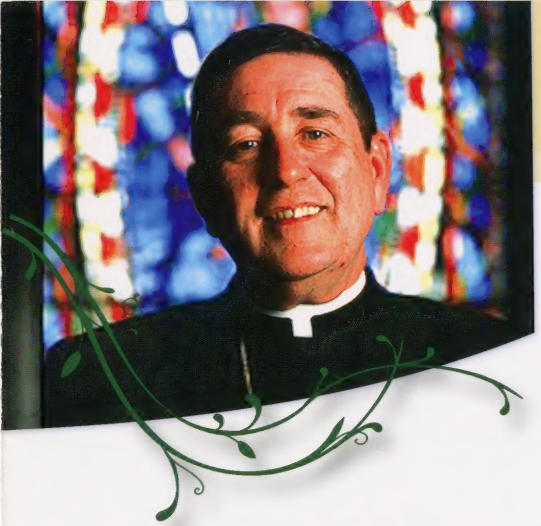


Heralding our Future.



Celebrating 150 Years
Proclaiming our Past, Heralding our Future.

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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For 150 years you have faithfully witnessed to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at St. Mary Catholic Church in Hudson, Ohio. It is with thanks to God and sincere gratitude to you that I greet you on this jubilee of your founding. Please accept my best wishes and my promise of prayer as you celebrate the past with faith and look forward toward the future with hope.

As Catholics we stand upon the shoulders of so many faithful witnesses who have gone before us. In particular, your parish family boasts of a history filled with many good and generous members and leaders. I share your gratitude for the wonderful pastors, priests and lay ministers who, relying upon the many gifts of your faithful community, have been essential to the vibrancy of your parish life for 150 years. The leadership of your current pastor, Fr. Edward Kordas and those who assist him, have prepared your parish to flourish into the future.

In recognizing this jubilee we recall that the foundations of our faith lie in and upon Jesus Christ alone. Your fidelity to that faith in Jesus Christ, your love of your families, and your dedication to the Church is an inspiration for all people in your neighborhood and this entire Diocese.

My hope is that the celebration of your 150th Anniversary of the founding of your parish will be a time of great blessing and a time of renewal and evangelization. Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and my promise of prayer as you mark yet another milestone in the history of your great parish. May God bless you all and grant you His peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Richard Lennon

Bishop of Cleveland

A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field. While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil was not very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots. Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew and choked the plants. But a few seeds did fall on good ground ...

Celebrating 150 Years
Proclaiming our Past, Heralding our Future.

150

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Dear Parishioners of St. Mary Church,

It is with great joy that we celebrate 150 years of faithfulness and belief centered in the mystery of the Risen Christ. The faith community of St. Mary Catholic Church has been an enduring presence here in Hudson since 1860 and we are called now to continue our outreach not only to our own parish family but to commit ourselves to contributing to the life and vitality of the surrounding community.

With the advent of a clustering plan that the Bishop has required in the Diocese, we at St. Mary Church have made considerable progress towards ensuring a strong and lasting Catholic presence within our community. Through our successful collaboration with St. Barnabas in Northfield, Mother of Sorrows in Peninsula and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Macedonia, we've done much to strengthen Catholic outreach and presence in the area.

There's also been a strong emphasis on ecumenical cooperation with other faiths in Hudson and my appointment as Chairperson of the Hudson Ministerial Association speaks to the ongoing commitment of this parish for a comprehensive and global faith outreach.

As we thank God for our vibrant past and look now towards the future, we must be energetic in reaching out to attract Catholics who may have fallen away by being a welcoming community whose warmth and vitality emerge from our devotion to the Eucharist. As God has given us many blessings throughout our rich and vibrant history let us continually pray that we will be faithful to His ministry and through His guidance, live in His love and peace for years to come.

In Christ,

Fr. Edward Kordas

Pastor, St. Mary Church

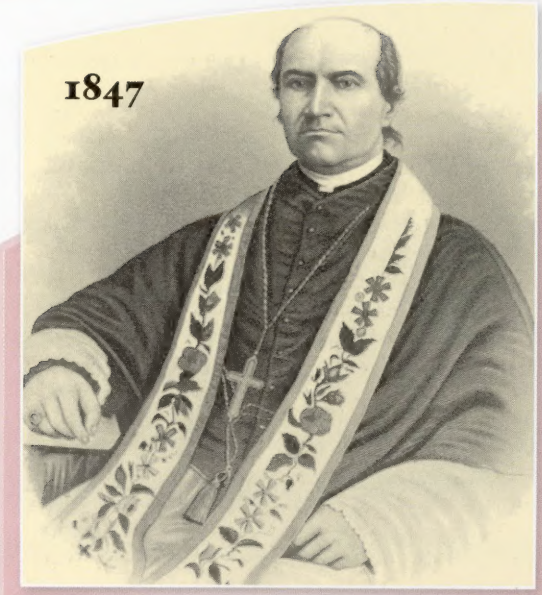
...where the plants

produced a hundred or sixty or thirty times

as much was scattered.

~ Matthew 13: 3-8

1847

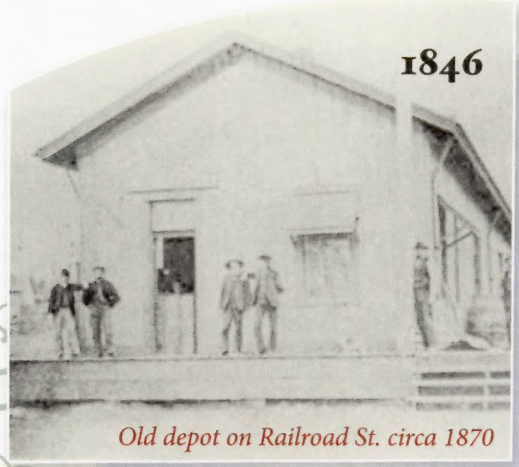


French-born missionary priest Louis Amadeus Rappe, becomes the first Bishop of Cleveland.

1855

Irish-born house servants, Julia Colnan and her sister, Brigid, arrive in Hudson and find employment. Thomas and Ellen Hurley arrive about the same time from Connecticut with their friends, the Noonans and the Kennedys, all originally from Ireland.

1846



Old depot on Railroad St. circa 1870

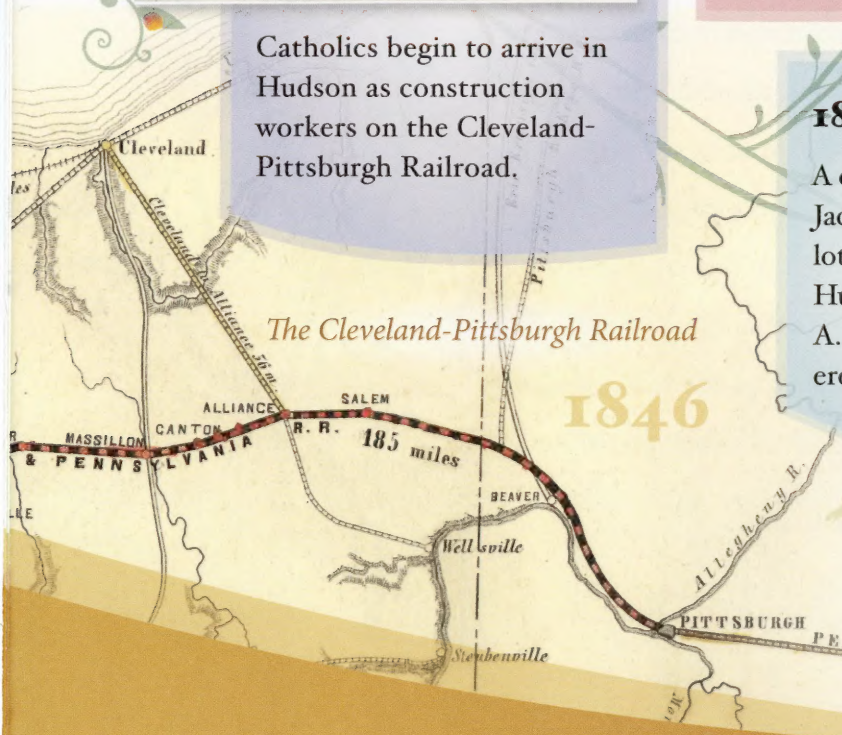
Catholics begin to arrive in Hudson as construction workers on the Cleveland-Pittsburgh Railroad.

1850

A circuit-riding priest, Rev. Jacob Goodwin, purchases a lot on Railroad Street from Hudson businessman Anson A. Brewster. No funds to erect a church.

1854

Rev. Francis McGann and Rev. William O'Connor are among the circuit-riding priests who bring the sacraments to Hudson.



The Cleveland-Pittsburgh Railroad

1846

Rev. Eugene M. O'Callaghan, our first Pastor.

1859

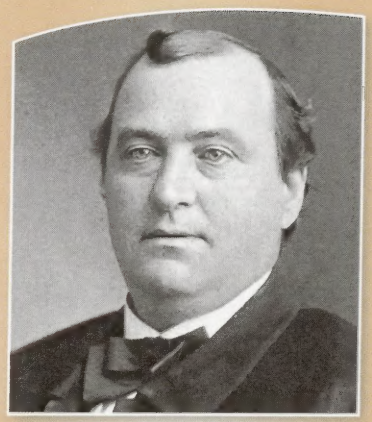
Rev. Eugene M. O'Callaghan becomes the first Pastor at St. Mary Church and builds a small frame church (30'x 50') on Railroad Street.

First baptism November 8, 1859 for infant Anna Joyce, 5th child of John and Catharine Joyce.

1860

The Maloney-Stapleton murder in Hudson results in the death of Michael Stapleton and the conviction of John Maloney, husband of Julia Colnan's sister, Brigid. Several parishioners testify at the trial in Akron.

1861

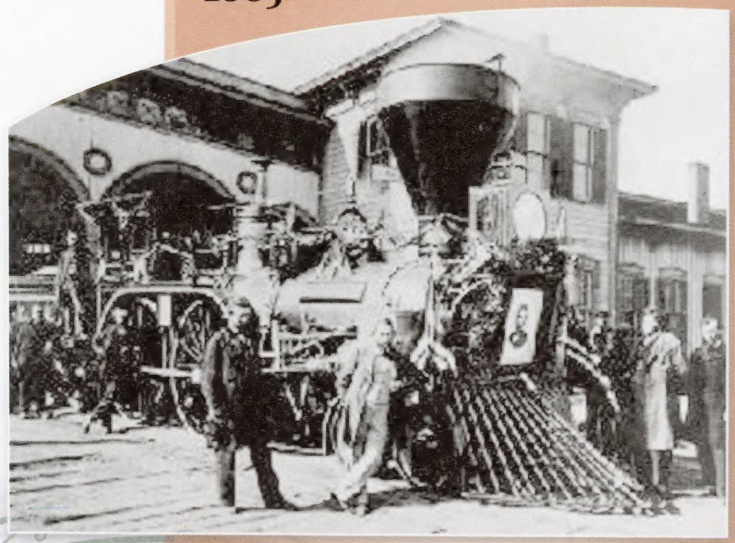


Rev. Patrick H. Brown becomes Pastor. The Civil War breaks out and several Irish-born parishioners enlist in Union regiments.

1860

Bishop Louis Amadeus Rappe of Cleveland formally establishes St. Mary Church in Hudson, Ohio.

1865



President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated. The above photo shows the Lincoln Funeral Train outside Cleveland Union Station on April 28, 1865. The Civil War ends. Julia Colnan resolves to save her money so St. Mary Church could eventually build a brick church with stone trim.

1876

Rev. Angelo Paganini replaces Fr. John Hannan as Pastor.

Peter W. Doyle of New York State settles in Hudson with his parents. Doyle becomes the most conspicuous and important parishioner for the next sixty years.

1877

Rev. Patrick H. O'Mara becomes Pastor. Works with Cleveland Bishop Richard Gilmour to purchase land on North Main Street for St. Mary Cemetery.

1867

Rev. John Hannan replaces Fr. Brown as Pastor. John Maloney, convicted murderer, is pardoned by Ohio Governor Jacob D. Cox and is reunited to his wife, Brigid, and family.

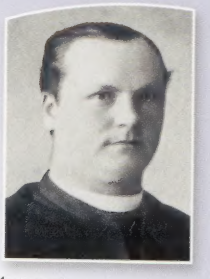
1881

Peter W. Doyle marries parishioner Mary Ann Raleigh of Northampton Township. They become the parents of six children and operate a dairy farm on Valley View Road.

1884

Rev. Joseph J. Clarke becomes Pastor.

1885



Rev. James Farrell becomes Pastor. A native of Ireland, he had just been ordained earlier that year.

1888

Fr. Farrell purchases the sites at the corner of East Main Street and Streetsboro Street directly on the Green for the location of the church and parish house.

1890

Rev. Francis B. Doherty becomes Pastor.

The small church on Railroad Street is moved up to the Green and enlarged. It will remain the parish church for the next 80 years.

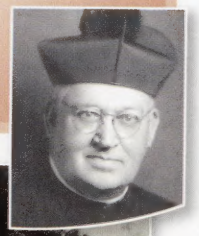
1892

After nearly 40 years in Hudson, Julia Colnan moves to Cleveland after the death of her employer.

1899

Peter W. Doyle is appointed councilman for the parish by Fr. Doherty, the Pastor, a post he will hold for the next 41 years.

Rev. Daniel B. Crotty becomes Pastor.



Our Home on the Green, circa 1900.

1890

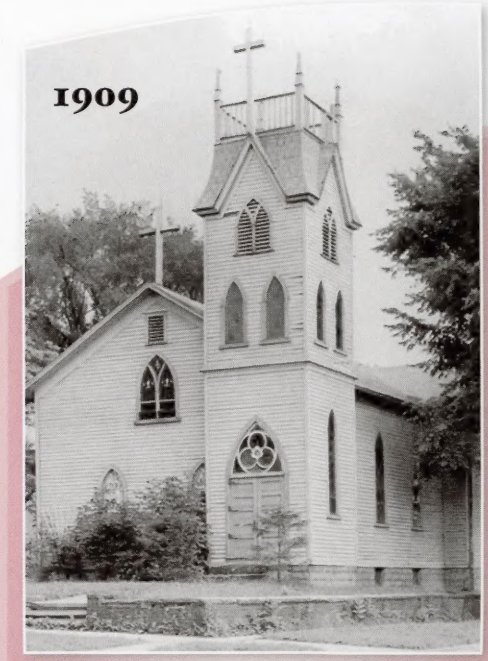
1902

Peter W. Doyle resigns from the Hudson Township Board of Education after 25 years of service.

1907

Julia Colnan, still living in Cleveland, draws up her Last Will and Testament making St. Mary Church her chief beneficiary.

1909



A new front entrance and bell tower added to the church and a new sacristy. An elaborate baldochino is built as a canopy over the altar. Parish consists of 40 families.

1911

Ohio Governor Judson Harmon appoints Peter W. Doyle to the Board of Trustees at the Kent Normal School (now Kent State University). Doyle also named Overseer of the Union Cemeteries in Hudson.

Rev. James Nolan, Pastor, takes a trip to his native Ireland aboard the R.M.S. *Lusitania*, which sank a few years later during World War I.

Circa 1900. The Altar in the Church on the Green

1908

1908, First Communion Class

1912

Death of Julia Colnan and burial at Standing Rock Cemetery in Kent, Ohio. Fr. Nolan appointed to town benefactor James W. Ellsworth's "committee of twelve" to promote village improvements.

1913

Julia Colnan's specification that her bequest be used to build "a brick church with stone trim" prevents her will from being probated for the next 55 years.

1915

Rev. John I. Gilhooly becomes Pastor.

1921

Most Rev. Joseph A. Schrembs becomes Bishop of Cleveland, later Archbishop, and remains in office until 1945.

1928 - 1930

Rev. Thomas I. Gaffney becomes Pastor. Parish has about 55 families.

Fr. Gaffney is elected to the Board of Trustees of the Hudson Library and Historical Society.

1938

Rev. James W. Fitzgerald is named Pastor of St. Mary Church while Rev. William J. Koehl becomes Associate Pastor replacing Rev. John S. Maro. Parish now has 100 families.

Julia Colnan's Dream...

1940

Death of Peter W. Doyle at age 86. His son, Leo, and daughter, Dorothy survive.

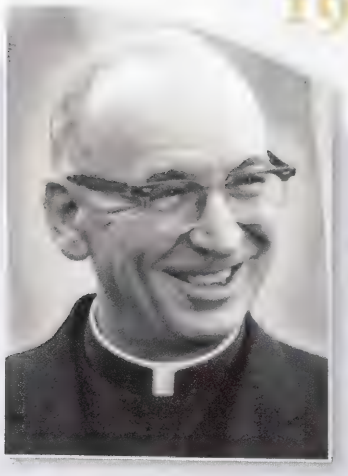
1941

St. Mary Church receives a $5,000 bequest from the Cloran family estate; Julia Colnan's will still in probate.

1942

Judge Dean F. May and his wife, Dorothy, and family move to Hudson.

1943



Rev. Henry J. Hofer becomes Pastor of St. Mary Church. Dean F. May organizes the St. Mary Men's Club.

1948

Rev. Martin E. Cummings, ordained in 1931, becomes Pastor of St. Mary Church, which has 110 families.

1945

Most Rev. Edward F. Hoban succeeds Archbishop Schrembs as Bishop of Cleveland and remains in office until 1966.

Most Rev. Edward F. Hoban

1949

Death of Dean F. May. St. Mary Church on the Green enlarged and renovated with much of the labor done by themen of the parish. New basement space excavated and church raised up on new foundation. Sunday School classes are held there.

1950, First Communion Procession led by Brian Houlihan, Patrick Houlihan and Bill Daberko. Fr. Cummings follows altar boys Ray Maimone and Joe May.

1954

After consideration of several properties, St. Mary Church purchases the 62-acre B.F. Goodrich parcel at the corner of North Main and Prospect Streets for $25,000. Fr. Cummings announces it will be the site of the new St. Mary Church and Catholic School.

1956

Fr. Martin E. Cummings celebrates his 25th Anniversary as a priest. Parish has about 250 families.

1958

Death of Pope Pius XII and the election of Pope John XXIII who soon announces plans for a council.

1962

Pope John XXIII opens the Second Vatican Council in Rome for the purpose of Church renewal.

1960, altar inside St. Mary Church on the Green

1963

Death of Pope John XXIII and election of Pope Paul VI. Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

1954

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Julia Colnan's Legacy...

1966

Fr. Martin E. Cummings celebrates his 35th Anniversary as a priest. Parish gift is a trip to Italy.

Most Rev. Clarence G. Issenmann, who had succeeded Archbishop Edward F. Hoban, appoints Rev. Vincent O'Dea, ordained in 1936, to be Pastor of St. Mary Church. Fr. Cummings is transferred to Valley City, Ohio.

Rev. Vincent O'Dea

1968

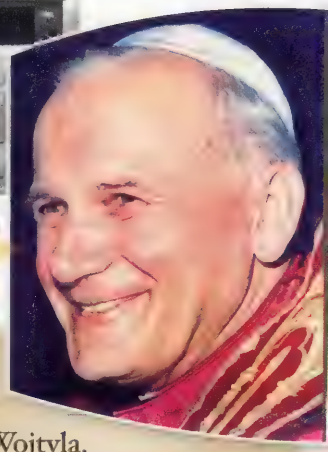
Julia Colnan's will is probated as plans move forward to build a brick church with stone trim designed by Cleveland architect J. Terence Kelly. Groundbreaking ceremony is held on August 14, 1968.

1969

Life-long parishioner, Dorothy Doyle, becomes Parish Secretary to Fr. O'Dea.

1970

St. Mary Church closes its old church on the Green and opens the new church on Holy Thursday evening. The parish has now grown to 463 families or about 1,100 members.



1978

Karol Wojtyla, the first non-Italian in over 400 years, is elected Pope. He takes the name John Paul II and soon wins widespread acclaim.

St. Mary Women's Guild founded by Joanne Deighen.

The altar of the new church, circa 1970.

1979

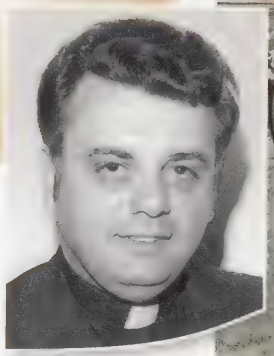
Fr. O'Dea retires as Pastor and is replaced by the Rev. John Wessel. Parish Secretary Dorothy Doyle announces her retirement at age 83.

The Most Rev. Anthony J. Pilla becomes the ninth Bishop of Cleveland.

The Most Rev. Anthony J. Pilla

1980

Rev. Joseph J. Costello, ordained in 1960, becomes the new Pastor of St. Mary Church. Parish has grown to 740 families.



1981

After a hiatus, the St. Mary Men's Club is revived under leadership of Dennis Pruchnicki.

1982

Sister Barbara Walter, H.M. becomes the first nun to serve as Parish Minister. Under her direction the RCIA program is implemented.

1983

Fr. Robert Washko joins the parish as Associate Pastor. Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon and Fr. Costello break ground for the long-awaited parish expansion project.

1984

Parish expansion completed; new administration wing, a remodeled and expanded rectory, and an enlarged social hall are dedicated; Ruth Diroll becomes Office Manager for parish.

Rev. Edwin M. Leonard, a parishioner and son of Russ and Anne Leonard, is ordained a priest and celebrates his first Mass at St. Mary Church in June.

1983

1986

Fr. Michael B. Smith replaces Fr. Washko as Associate Pastor.

1987

Fr. Michael B. Smith designs a parish coat of arms that is formally adopted. He later designs a flag for the village (now city) of Hudson, which is approved by city council.

1988

With the support of Fr. Costello and Parish Council, St. Mary Preschool is established as a Parish Ministry by Linda Sucheski. Four teachers welcome 56 young children to their first day of preschool on September 12, 1988.

1989

Jane Sabol joins the staff as Parish Secretary.

1990

Women's Guild arranges and dedicates a permanent marker on the grave of parish benefactor Julia Colnan in Kent, Ohio.

Dorothy Doyle, the last link to the parish's first Irish families, dies at age 94.

1992

Fr. William Dickinson becomes Associate Pastor and together with parishioner Beth Davis, initiates LIFE TEEN as a vibrant component of parish life.

1994

Campaign for the new church concludes as Fr. Costello helps break ground for a 950-seat church. Parish now has 1,813 families.

1994

The Benton Family are among the parishioners signing beams that will be used to build the new church, August 1994.

1995

The new St. Mary Church opens at Mass on Holy Thursday night. First "Trees and Treasures" benefit auction for LIFE TEEN.

1997

Fr. Bill Dickinson is transferred to St. Basil Church in Brecksville, Ohio and is replaced by Fr. Steven Brunovsky as Associate Pastor; "Trees and Treasures" auction benefit in December becomes principal support for the LIFE TEEN program.

Seton Catholic School, the first independent Catholic school in the Cleveland Diocese, opens its doors. Several St. Mary parishioners are among Seton's founders.

2001

Rev. Joseph J. Costello celebrates the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination; "Trees and Treasures" raises over $80,000 in its benefit auction.

Fr. Costello's 40th Anniversary

Death of beloved Pastor, Fr. Joseph J. Costello, longest serving priest in parish history. Fr. Steven Brunovsky becomes Parish Administrator.

Paul Wilkes' book, Excellent Catholic Parishes: the guide to the best places and practices (Paulist Press) lists St. Mary Church as "one of the best Christian churches in America" for its leadership, liturgy and program.

Lifelong Adult Ministry (LAM) is founded with Al Beck as its first President.

Dedication of the outdoor shrine statue of the Annunciation.

2001

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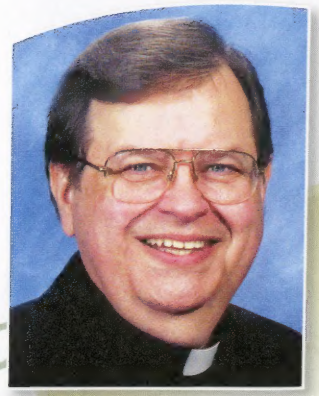


2001

Rev. Edward J. Kordas, ordained in 1968, becomes Pastor of St. Mary Church after a priestly career as campus minister at Notre Dame College, Baldwin Wallace, and Oberlin College, and as Pastor at Nativity BVM in South Amherst.

2002

Retirement of Ruth Diroll after 18 years as the Parish Office Manager.

2003

Newly ordained Rev. Damian J. Ference becomes Associate Pastor replacing Fr. Steven Brunovsky who is transferred to St. Francis Xavier Church in Medina, Ohio.

Parish Nurse position established in partnership with Laurel Lake Health Initiative.

Servants 4 Christ created by LIFE TEEN in response to the devastating Hudson flood.

2004

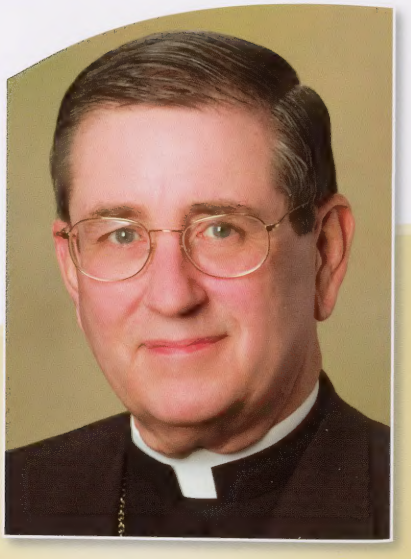
Development position added with Patricia Belby as its first Director.

Steinway piano and handbells added to the music ministry.

John Paul II Scholarship Fund established to help parishioners discerning a religious vocation.

2005

Pope John Paul II dies and is succeeded by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger who takes the name Pope Benedict XVI.



2006

The Most Reverend Richard Lennon becomes the tenth Bishop of Cleveland.

2007

Fr. Damian Ference is sent to the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. for further study.

Fr. John D. Betters arrives as the new Associate Pastor.

2007

2008

Parishioner Fr. Steven Flynn is ordained to the priesthood and celebrates his First Mass.

Fr. Steve Flynn (left) and Fr. Damian Ference (right) get reacquainted on Priesthood Sunday.

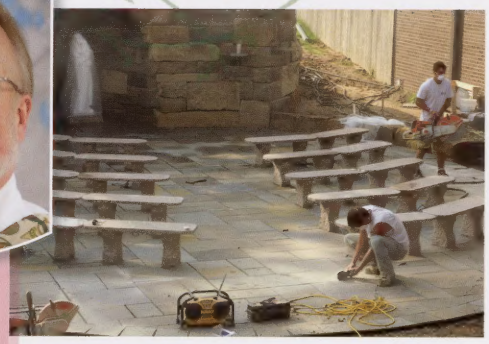
EDGE is established with Kelly Faehnle as our first Middle School Youth Minister.

2009

Carl Winterich, a parishioner, is ordained a Permanent Deacon and assigned to St. Mary Church.

Dedication of the Grotto of the Madonna della Strada and the 150th Walkway by Auxiliary Bishop Roger Gries.

The parish has now grown to 2,850 families or 10,300 members.



Workers put the finishing touches on the Grotto of the Madonna della Strada.

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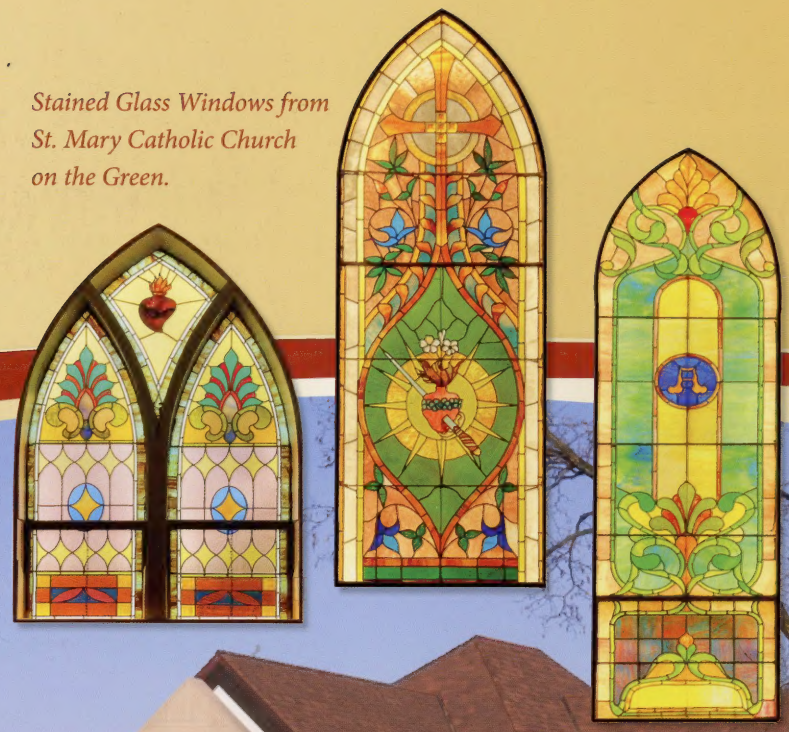
Stained Glass Windows from St. Mary Catholic Church on the Green.



Thank you to the 150th Anniversary Committee, led by:

Mr. & Mrs. Rich & Mary Auth, Chairs
Fr. John D. Betters, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Patricia Belby, Parish Staff
Representatives from the Various Parish Ministries

A very special thank you to the History Sub Committee, who worked so hard to make this happen:

Fr. Edward J. Kordas – Pastor
Mr. Thomas Vince – Archivist, Western Reserve Academy
Mr. Jim Drake – WaveWalker Design, Inc.
Mrs. Jane Sabol – Parish Office Coordinator
Mrs. Joan Maher – Retired Teacher, Hudson Local Schools
Mrs. Patricia Belby – Development Director

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St. Mary Catholic Church

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